

REMARKS

Claims 1-29 all were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) in view of Friske (6,070,170). Applicant asks the Office to reconsider this application and allow all of the claims.

Claims 1 through 27

Friske neither shows nor suggests "executing [an] operation *in the database* on [a] set of target data" residing there, as claimed (emphasis added). Friske describes a more complicated technique in which the target data set "is 'unloaded' from the logical database" for reorganization and then reloaded into the database when the reorganization is complete. (Col. 6, lines 5-43.) Friske's reorganization operation is executed outside of the database on a copy of the target data. The operation does not occur "in the database." As a result, all of these claims are allowable over Friske.

Claims 28 and 29

Despite the Office's assertion to the contrary, Friske says absolutely nothing about performing a "MODIFY DATABASE/USER" operation on a set of target data in a database system. The "MODIFY DATABASE/USER" operation is a specific type of data-definition operation for which Applicant has found a particularly useful reduced-severity locking technique. Friske discusses "reorganization" of a target data set in general terms, but he says nothing to suggest even an awareness of the "MODIFY DATABASE/USER" operation, let alone a specific locking solution for such an operation.

New Claim 30

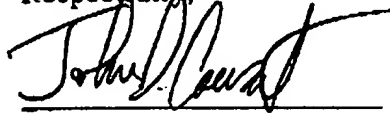
Friske does not show nor suggest a multi-level locking scheme in which "an initial lock" is used "to prevent at least one type of concurrent operation on the target data" and "a final lock" is later used "to exclude all types of concurrent operations on the target data," as claimed. Friske states clearly that he uses "a non-blocking drain" that waits for a resource "without blocking other requests on that resource." (Col. 2, lines 45-47.) Friske's non-blocking drain is not akin to Applicant's "initial lock," which blocks "at

least one type of concurrent operation." Claim 30 is therefore allowable over Friske as well. Support for this claim is found throughout the specification and claims as originally filed.

CONCLUSION

All of Applicant's claims are allowable over the art of record. Applicant therefore asks the Examiner to reconsider this application and to allow all of the claims. Please apply any charges that might be due, excepting the issue fee but including fees for extensions of time, to deposit account 50-1673.

Respectfully,



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